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HOUSE BILL 56

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

FOR THE COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO CORRECTIONS; CREATING THE OPIATE REPLACEMENT
THERAPY FOR INMATES PILOT PROJECT; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. OPIATE REPLACEMENT THERAPY FOR INMATES PILOT
PROJECT.--

A. The "opiate replacement therapy for inmates
pilot project" is created as a two-year study that provides
opiate replacement treatment, utilizing buprenorphine/naloxone,
to fifty women with a history of heroin or other opiate
addiction who are incarcerated at and are to be released on
parole from the New Mexico women's correctional facility in
Grants. The project shall include standard therapeutic
community and addiction counseling.

B. Opiate replacement therapy shall be administered

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1 to fifty women with a history of heroin or other opiate
2 addiction who:

3 (1) are at least one month away from release;

4 (2) will be monitored on parole for at least
5 one year following release;

6 (3) will be either incarcerated or on parole
7 for a minimum of two years;

8 (4) are not pregnant; and

9 (5) after being fully informed of
10 buprenorphine/naloxone and its effects and of the requirements
11 and procedures for participation in the project, agree to
12 participate in the opiate replacement therapy for inmates pilot
13 project for two years.

14 C. Priority shall be given to those women who are
15 closest to being released from incarceration and to those
16 planning to parole to a community within sixty miles of a
17 physician certified to prescribe buprenorphine/naloxone
18 therapy.

19 D. Opiate replacement therapy with
20 buprenorphine/naloxone shall be made available to each
21 participant in the pilot project for two years. The impact of
22 the project on all participants shall be evaluated for two
23 years.

24 E. The corrections department shall collaborate
25 with the department of health to administer the opiate

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1 replacement therapy for inmates pilot project and to contract
2 for the services of a buprenorphine/naloxone-certified
3 physician to evaluate and treat the women participants.

4 F. The corrections department shall evaluate and
5 determine the recidivism rate for the women participants in the
6 pilot project as compared with the recidivism rate for women
7 with a history of opiate dependence who are not treated with
8 buprenorphine/naloxone.

9 G. The corrections department shall evaluate and
10 determine the amount of psychotropic medication used by women
11 participants as compared to the amount used by women with a
12 history of opiate dependence who are not treated with
13 buprenorphine/naloxone.

14 H. The corrections department shall evaluate and
15 determine the number of opiate-positive urine drug screens
16 among women participants as compared to the number among women
17 with opiate dependence who are not treated with
18 buprenorphine/naloxone.

19 I. The corrections department shall evaluate and
20 determine the rate and frequency of infection, self-inflicted
21 injury and need for medical care of women involved in the pilot
22 project as compared to women with a history of opiate
23 dependence who are not treated with buprenorphine/naloxone.

24 J. The corrections department shall evaluate and
25 determine the changes in physical and mental health status,

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1 employment status, parenting and other quality-of-life
2 indicators during the project period of women participants as
3 compared to women with a history of opiate dependence who are
4 not treated with buprenorphine/naloxone.

5 K. The corrections department shall evaluate and
6 determine adherence to opiate replacement therapy with
7 buprenorphine/naloxone during the project period among women
8 participants.

9 L. The corrections department and department of
10 health shall each report independently to the appropriate
11 interim legislative committee on the evaluations, treatments
12 and outcomes of the pilot project participants by December 1,
13 2007 and again by December 1, 2008.

14 M. The pilot project shall run from July 1, 2006
15 through June 30, 2008.

16 Section 2. APPROPRIATION.--Two hundred fifty thousand
17 dollars (\$250,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
18 corrections department for expenditure in fiscal years 2007 and
19 2008 for the opiate replacement therapy for inmates pilot
20 project. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at
21 the end of fiscal year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.